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Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 64/203 of 21 December 2009, 65/161 of 20 December 2010 and 66/202 of 22 December 2011 and previous resolutions relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity,[1]

Recalling also the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992,[2] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[5] the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want"[6] and the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[7]

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[3] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[7] Resolution 65/1.

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Reaffirming all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[8] including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 thereof,

Recalling that the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be pursued in accordance with its relevant provisions, are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including through appropriate access to those resources, appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and technologies, and appropriate funding,

Reaffirming the intrinsic value of biological diversity as well as the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its critical role in maintaining ecosystems that provide essential services, which are critical foundations for sustainable development and human well-being,

Recognizing that the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity is crucial for sustainable development, poverty eradication and the improvement of human well-being and a major factor underpinning the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, States have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction,

Recalling that in its resolution 65/161, the General Assembly declared the decennium 2011-2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, with a view to contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,[9]

Recognizing that the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities make an important contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and that their wider application can support social well-being and sustainable livelihoods,

Noting the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its tenth meeting of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity,[10] and acknowledging the role of access and benefit-sharing arising from the utilization of genetic resources in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological

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[8] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[9] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/2.

[10] Ibid., decision X/1.

diversity, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability and, thereby, to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

Noting also that one hundred and ninety-two States and one regional economic integration organization are parties to the Convention and that one hundred and sixty-three States and one regional economic integration organization are parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Noting further that ninety-one States and one regional economic integration organization have signed the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Recalling the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth meeting of the strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention,[11] as well as the decision on the review of its implementation, including the establishment of targets, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting,

Expressing deep appreciation to the Government of India for hosting the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, from 8 to 19 October 2012, and the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, from 1 to 5 October 2012, both held in Hyderabad, and welcoming the decision by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting to endorse the offer of the Government of the Republic of Korea to host the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the first Meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization, all to be held in the second half of 2014,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;[12]

2. *Notes with appreciation* the recent appointment of the new Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and expresses its support for his tenure;

3. *Reaffirms* the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want"[6] and, in particular, the section referring to biodiversity as one of the important thematic areas and cross-sectoral issues, and urges its speedy implementation by Member States and other stakeholders;

4. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, especially the commitment to doubling biodiversity-related international financial resource flows to developing countries by 2015 and, at least, maintaining this level until 2020, and of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the

[11] Ibid., decision X/3.
[12] A/67/295, sect. III.

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, both held in Hyderabad, India, from 8 to 19 October 2012 and from 1 to 5 October 2012, respectively, which marked the concretization of a comprehensive implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity[1] and the outcomes of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010;[13]

5. *Affirms its commitment* to the outcomes of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to increase total biodiversity-related funding for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,[9] to mainstream biodiversity conservation and action in national development plans, to provide resource support to Parties, to address funding needs, gaps and priorities and to make concerted efforts to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;[9]

6. *Welcomes* the launch at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Hyderabad Pledge to boost resource support for global biodiversity action, expresses appreciation for the contribution made by India, and calls upon all parties to contribute resources for biodiversity conservation and action and also to contribute to strengthening institutional mechanisms, human resources support and capacity-building towards this endeavour, in particular in developing countries;

7. *Requests* Governments and all stakeholders to incorporate, within their national strategies and action plans, measures to ensure the fair and equitable benefit-sharing of the results of the research and development and the benefits arising out of the economic, commercial and other utilization of genetic resources, including non-market-based approaches;

8. *Also requests* Governments and all stakeholders to incorporate, within their national strategies and action plans, measures to protect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, with their participation, and to promote the equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the research, development and any utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices;

9. *Recalls* that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity make a critical contribution to disaster risk reduction and to reducing the adverse impacts of climate change, including by adding resilience to fragile ecosystems and making them less vulnerable;

10. *Recognizes* that the coherent and efficient implementation of obligations and commitments under the Convention require action at the global, regional and national levels, and in this regard emphasizes the need to comprehensively address the obstacles that impede the full implementation of the Convention;

11. *Calls upon* Member States and all relevant stakeholders to increase and improve their cooperation for technology transfer and capacity-building for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, particularly with regard to innovation capacities applied to the utilization of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated to those resources in developing countries, through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

[13] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27.

12. *Calls upon* Governments and all stakeholders to take appropriate measures to mainstream consideration of the socioeconomic impact and benefit of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its components, including traditional knowledge associated to genetic resources, as well as ecosystems that provide essential services, into relevant programmes and policies at all levels, in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities;

13. *Stresses* the importance of strengthening national, regional and international capacities and improving cooperation to appropriately address and prevent situations of non-compliance with the obligations and commitments of the Convention, including those related to misuse, misappropriation and misexploitation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, while reaffirming fully the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;[8]

14. *Reaffirms* the importance of achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth meeting and the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and in this regard requests the secretariat of the Convention to report to Member States on the advancement of those targets, including difficulties encountered in the process of implementation, by the sixty-eighth session;

15. *Notes* the ongoing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ("the Rio conventions"), and in this regard acknowledges the importance of improving coherence and enhancing synergies in the implementation of the Rio conventions;

16. *Takes note* of the ongoing work of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, and in this regard acknowledges the importance of improving coherence and enhancing synergies in the implementation of the Rio conventions, without prejudice to their specific objectives, and encourages the conferences of the parties to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to consider strengthening efforts in this regard, taking into account relevant experiences and bearing in mind the respective independent legal status and mandates of those instruments;

17. *Invites* all Member States and all relevant stakeholders to take concrete steps towards achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization and their contribution to sustainable development;

18. *Encourages* all parties that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

19. *Invites* parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization, so as to ensure its early entry into force and its implementation, and requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with relevant organizations, to undertake capacity-building and development initiatives to support the ratification, early entry into force and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, including holding the necessary briefings

for parties at all levels, to organize and carry out treaty-signing ceremonies during the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly and to report to Member States on these initiatives;

20. *Takes note* of the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and invites an early commencement of its work, in order to provide the best available policy-relevant information on biodiversity to assist decision makers;

21. *Also takes note* of the work of other relevant international bodies, in particular the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore of the World Intellectual Property Organization, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, taking into account the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, and in this regard stresses the importance of improving coherence and enhancing synergies among them;

22. *Requests* the secretariat of the Convention to organize a joint briefing by the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the secretariat of the Convention on the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biodiversity, including actions undertaken to promote appropriate access and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated to those resources, within the framework of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, and to submit an executive summary to the General Assembly before the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

23. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".